

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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SUBJ: UPI, AP POOL REPORT ON ETHIOPIA-CLOSURES

REF: STATE 044639

POOLED REPORT FOR UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL AND ASSOCIATE
PRESS PLEASE FORWARD

ADDIS ABABA MAY 31, 1974 -- FOUR ADDITIONAL MISSIONARY
HOSPITAL AND CLINIC PROJECTS HAVE BEEN CLOSED IN THE
NORTHERN ETHIOPIAN PROVINCE OF ERITREA FOLLOWING THE
KIDNAPPING OF TWO NURSES - AND THE MURDER OF ONE- FIVE
DAYS AGO (MAY 27) IN THE TOWN OF GHINDA ON THE MAIN
ROAD BETWEEN THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL, ASMARA, AND THE
RED SEA PORT OF MASSAWA.

SINCE THE CLOSURE OF THE AMERICAN EVANGELICAL MISSION HOSPITAL-
WHERE THE TWO NURSES WORKED - THE SUDAN INTERIOR MISSION
(SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARIES) CLINIC AND A
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AT THE TOWN OF AFABED
RPT AFABED, NORTH OF KEREN, HAVE ALSO CEASED OPERATIONS.
IN ADDITION, A MIDDLE EAST GENERAL MISSIONS HOSPITAL
AT HAICOTA NER TESSENEI IN WESTERN ERITREA ON THE
BORDER WITH SUDAN AND A CLINIC AT MASSAWA, RUN BY THE
RED SEA MISSION, HAVE DONE LIKEWISE.

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IN ALL CASES, MISSION OFFICIALS SAID THE DECISION HAS

BEEN TAKEN BECAUSE OF INCREASING CONCERN FOR THE SAFETY OF THEIR PERSONNEL.

AND THE OFFICIALS SAID "THE INSTITUTIONS WILL REMAINED CLOSED UNTIL ALL HOSTAGES, INCLUDING THE FIVE EMPLOYEES OF THE AMERICAN OIL COMPANY, TENNECO, HAVE BEEN SAFELY RELEASED BY THE ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT...

THE ELF IS A SEPARATIST ORGANIZATION WAGING WAR AGAINST THE CENTRAL ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT OF EMPEROR HAILE SELASSIE. MEANWHILE, RELAIBEL DIPLOMATIC SOURCES HAVE REPORTED THAT A WEST GERM NATIONAL, 35 YEARS OL, DR KAHN RPT KAHN (STILL WORKING ON OTHER DETAILS) WAS SHOT AND KILLED TWO DAYS AGO (WEDNESDAY) SHORTLY BEFORE LEAVING ERTITREA FOR SUDAN.

THE WEST GERMAN EMBASSY IS MAINTAINING STRICT SILENCE ON THE MATTER BUT THE DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAID DR KAHN'S WIFE SURVIVED THE ATTACK BY UNKNOWN BANDITS AND HAS OFFICIALLY REPORTED THE KILLINGS TO THE EMBASSY HERE IN THE CAPITAL.

THERE IS STILL NO FURTHER NEWS CONCERNING THE FATE OF THE 24-YEAR OLD AMERICAN NURSE, MRS. DORTZBACH RPT DEBORAH CORTZBACH, WHO WAS LAST REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN PUT ABORAOAD A HELICOPTER BY HER FOUR ARMED ABDUCTORS. ADDITIONAL FEARS HAVE BEEN EXPRESS FOR MRS. DORTZBACH'S WELL-BEING BECAUSE SHE IS FIVE MONTHS PREGANANT AND IS IN "EXTREMELY DELICATE HEALTH."

THE HELICOPTER, PILOTED BY CANADIAN GRANT WYATT RPT GRANT WYATT, WAS SENT TO A DESIGNATED SPOT BY TENNECO ON THE FALSE ASSUMPTION THAT IT WOULD PICK UP THE FIVE NORTH AMERICAN WMPLOYEES OF THE OIL COMPANY WHO HAVE NOW BEEN HELD BY THE ELF FOR OVER TWO MONTHS.

THE MEN, INDENTIFIED AS DON DEDERFORT, THE PILOT, FROM CLAGARY ALBERTA; CLIFFORD JAMES, RORONTO, ONTARIO; WILLIAM CASCE OF TEXAS, J W ROGERS OF NEW YORK STATE; AND MATTE TAVELA FROM CALIFORNIA WERE ABDUCTED BY THIRTY BANDITS AFTER THEIR SURVEY HELICOPTER WAS FORCED DOWN DURING A VIOLENT STORM NEAR MASSAWA. AND A FEW WEEKS LATER, THE ELF CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE KIDNAPPINGS. THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT HAS DESCRIBED AS "AN ABHORRENT AACT" THE KIDNAPPING AND KILLING AT GHINDA AND PLEDGED ITS SUPPORT FOR ANY MOVES TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF THE ONE UNCLASSIFIED

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NURSE STILL HELD.
ENDSPOOL
WYMAN

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